

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe

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Long-Range View Of U. S. Foreign Policy

President's Recent Speech Implies Continuation of American Leadership After War

FORECASTS HITLER'S DEFEAT

All-Out Aid Program Swiftly Pushes Ahead and Serves as Tonic to Britain and Allies

The second week of March 1941 is likely to stand out as a fateful one in American history. That week witnessed a momentous decision by the people of the United States, acting through their Congress and their President. After long debate, Congress made up its mind; decided that this nation should take an active part in the second World War, and should do everything it could to bring about the defeat of Germany. The President of the United States made an address to the American people, setting forth America's policies, and the government took action by starting a flow of goods and weapons to the nations fighting Germany.

The week ending the middle of March may stand, therefore, as a turning point in American foreign policy. There have been several fundamental changes of policy during comparatively recent years. There were the long years of isolation before the World War; years when it was the accepted policy of the United States to take no part in the wars of Europe and Asia. Then came the World War, and with it a change of American policy. The people of the United States decided that they had a vital interest in the outcome of the war, and that they would not be safe unless Germany was defeated. They participated in the war, and helped to defeat Germany. Then they changed again, and decided that, after all, America was not vitally concerned with the course of affairs in the Old World. Again it appeared that this country was to turn its back on Europe and Asia.

Change of Policy

Such was America's policy up to the beginning of the second World War, in September 1939. But the war was scarcely under way when sentiment in this country began to turn toward another change—toward getting back to the position of 1917. First, there was the Neutrality Act of 1939, which permitted the shipment of war supplies to belligerent nations. In effect, this meant the sale of war materials to England and France, for they controlled the seas, and they alone were able to buy these things. Later on, after the fall of France, sentiment in America moved further away from strict neutrality, and further toward helping England. The nation began to raise an army by conscription, and destroyers were traded to England for naval and air bases. Then, at the beginning of this year, came the great debate on whether this country should adopt a policy of "all out" aid to the nations which were at war with Germany. The debate raged in Congress and throughout the nation, and at last it was terminated by the passage of the lend-lease bill.

This bill contains the following provisions:

(a) It empowers the President to transfer war supplies now in the possession of the United States Government, up to the value of \$1,300,000,000, to any nation or nations whose defense he considers vital to the defense of the United States. He is to do this after consultation with the chief of staff of the United States Army.

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PUTTING ON THE TIN HAT

The Path of Duty

BY WALTER E. MYER

Each patriotic American must ponder carefully the question of where duty lies at a time of crisis and danger. What new burdens, what new responsibilities and obligations are placed upon us at such a time as this? One fact should stand out clearly—we are not under obligation to give up democracy. Instead, we should strengthen it. That means that each individual should have his opinions, and should express them; he should help in determining what the policy of the government shall be from week to week, and from month to month. That is the way of democracy. Even though a person is in a minority, he has a right to be heard. Minorities must be respected and protected by the majority. One has a right and a duty to say what he thinks about the course America should pursue while the World War is in progress, and the course which it should follow after the war is over.

But, while the citizen has a right to help determine what the nation's policies shall be, he also has a duty to try to make those policies a success, once they have been adopted by a majority of the people, working through the constituted authorities. Whatever one may think of the program of all-out aid to the democracies, he must recognize the fact that the program has been adopted by the United States government; it is now the American policy, and it is the duty of every individual to do what he can to make that policy a success.

The program upon which our country has embarked calls for the production of goods—airplanes, ships, guns, munitions, food, clothing, and other materials on a scale never before known. It is the duty of every citizen to fit into that plan of production. Each person is under an unusual obligation to work at a job which helps to promote the public interests, and to do his work well. The young people of the nation are under obligation to acquire skill in some useful occupation, and to put that skill into operation. It is the duty of all of us to pay taxes willingly, and to help create a public opinion which will support necessary programs of taxation. It is our duty to endure sacrifices of all kinds; to accept inconveniences, such as the inability to purchase articles which we would like to have but which are no longer available because of the pressure of war demands. It is our duty, when we engage in argument, to carry on our discussions moderately and tolerantly. We are under obligation to do everything we possibly can to encourage goodwill and unity in the nation, as it proceeds with a task which has been approved by the majority, and which calls for the unified support of the entire American people.

U. S. Weighs Issue Of Food For Europe

Urgent Need in France, Belgium, and Spain Raises New and Difficult Problems

SEIZURE BY NAZIS FEARED

British Assert Any Form of Relief Will Aid Hitler, But Compromise Plan Is Sought

One of the most difficult questions now facing officials in Washington is whether American food should be made available to the hungry peoples of Europe, and if so, how it could be done without aiding Hitler. The question was raised some weeks ago when Herbert Hoover offered a plan involving food distribution under strict American supervision. This plan (which we shall discuss in greater detail later) involved the cooperation of the British. But Britain refused to cooperate, stating that any relief sent to the people in lands occupied or dominated by Germany would directly or indirectly help the Germans.

Last week, however, the issue was raised again, and this time it is apparent that some decision must soon be made. It began in Vichy, where Marshal Pétain called American newspapermen together for a surprise conference. He spoke of France's great need for food and of the difficulty she had in getting it. Germans had occupied the food-producing regions of France, and the British blockade prevented food from being imported from countries outside. The old marshal appealed to the United States to bring pressure on London to relax the blockade. He asked that the United States permit France to use some of its assets now "frozen" in this country to purchase half a million tons of wheat, to be taken away in French ships.

French Warning

The critical point came up when Pétain nodded toward his second-in-command, Admiral Darlan, who was sitting in the room, asking if he did not have a statement to make. He did. The admiral warned that if the British persisted in seizing French food ships, France would use her fleet to protect these ships, and fight the British navy if necessary. To put it bluntly, France would join Hitler in the war against Britain unless the British permitted food to pass through the blockade.

This threat immediately brought the food problem into the fore as a difficult problem in strategy. Food sent to France might aid Germany. But food withheld from France might aid Germany more by bringing France into the war. What should be done about it? In Washington there have been strong arguments and strong doubts on both sides of this question. Some individuals, among them General Pershing, Ambassador Bullitt, Herbert Hoover, and Red Cross officials favor sending relief. Some Army and Navy officers are doubtful. The situation is so complicated that it is best to go to the bottom of it.

France, before the war, was a very well-balanced country economically. It was an industrial power, and yet produced a great many foodstuffs. Along the fertile valley of the Aisne River, and in the lowlands of the Beauce and Brie, a great deal of wheat is grown. The province of Brittany yields large quantities of potatoes, and the nearby waters large catches of fish. In normal times vegetables, milk,

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THE BATTLE OF LAKE ERIE

(From a painting by William H. Powell, hanging in the Senate wing of the U. S. Capitol.)

Historical Backgrounds

By David S. Muzzey and Paul D. Miller

History in Reverse

In many respects, the attitude of the American people and the policy of the United States government with respect to the present European war stand in sharp contrast to our historical experience. In a sense, the change is history in reverse, for we are doing today exactly the opposite of what we have done in past wars. By embarking upon a policy of direct and unlimited aid to Britain, reaching a climax in the enactment of the lend-lease bill, we have assumed a new status—a status which

is commonly referred to as nonbelligerency. Without actually taking up arms against a foreign foe, we have declared one of the belligerents in a European war to be our enemy and are prepared to go the limit in helping to bring about his defeat. In a sense, we are undertaking to

DAVID S. MUZZEY

win a war without fighting it. Certain of the more important implications of this policy are discussed elsewhere in this issue of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER*.

Previous Experiences

In adopting this policy we are pursuing a course which stands in sharp contrast to the policies in force before our entry into the War of 1812 and the World War. In those two instances, we were drawn into war—at least in large measure—for the purpose of protecting our interests. In both cases, we took up arms because the belligerents of Europe violated what we considered our legal rights under international law. Specifically, we insisted upon our right as a neutral to carry on trade with both belligerents—upon the traditional principle of freedom of the seas—and when we could not make the right effective by other means, we took up arms to defend and enforce it.

In the present struggle, no such issue has arisen. This is due largely to the fact that beforehand we abandoned many of our neutral rights. The Neutrality Acts of recent years were enacted for the purpose of preventing incidents such as those which embroiled this country in earlier wars. For example, heavy restrictions were imposed upon American shipping and ships were forbidden to enter war zones. The thought was that by keeping our ships out of combat areas, there would be no danger of sinkings and other incidents which might lead to war.

For many years prior to our entry into the War of 1812, we had had trouble with both the British and the French, engaged in deadly combat in the Napoleonic Wars. The British, then as now, were in control of the seas and Napoleon, like Hitler, had

the continent of Europe under his thumb. Both sides sought to bring the other to defeat by economic pressure. The British blockaded the entire continent and Napoleon imposed his counterblockade in the hope of bringing the British to their knees.

The decrees and restrictions to neutral shipping adversely affected the United States. We had built up a flourishing foreign trade and were not anxious to see it destroyed by these restrictions. Diplomatic protests against the violation of the freedom of the seas and interference with our neutral rights were of no avail. Many times before the final decision was made, we were on the verge of war with both belligerents. If we finally took up arms against England rather than against Napoleon, it was due, partially at least, to the Corsican's greater shrewdness as a diplomatist in soothing our feelings.

The World War

Much the same situation prevailed during the early period of the World War. Both the Germans and the English interfered with our rights as neutrals. In fact, on many occasions during the first World War our protests to the British with respect to violations of our neutral rights were so harsh as to threaten war. But the submarine warfare of the Germans, when it became unrestricted, greatly inflamed American public opinion and was one of the major causes of our declaration of war upon Germany in April 1917.

In the earlier conflicts, American public opinion was far more divided than it is with respect to the present European struggle. During the Napoleonic Wars, which, it must be remembered, sprang from the French Revolution, large numbers of Americans were in sympathy with the French and hoped for a Napoleonic victory. They felt that the French were carrying on the traditions of their own revolution. On the other hand, a considerable section of public opinion was in favor of a British victory.

While opinion was less sharply divided during the World War, there was nevertheless a division. The German-Americans were united in their support of Germany before the United States became a belligerent and they had the backing of many anti-British groups, such as the Irish. In the present struggle, one finds no such division. However much the American people may differ on methods, an overwhelming majority of them are anxious for the British to win and support the policy of giving all possible aid to Britain in order to accomplish that objective. It is this virtual unanimity of opinion that has been largely responsible for the revolutionary change in policy; for the adoption of a policy which is vastly different from those which have been in force during previous European struggles.

The Good Citizen Is Constructive

I WANT to talk to you this week about a fault which has weakened the influence of some of the brightest young citizens I have known. One young man in particular stands out in my mind. He has done a great deal of reading for a person of his years. He has more facts about public problems at his command than most adults of my acquaintance.

What is more, this young man does not stop at merely reading about the problems of the day. He comes to conclusions and then makes every effort to make his opinions felt. He writes letters to the newspapers in his city; he talks with local officials and joins with local groups and organizations which are attempting to carry on the work in which he believes. He writes to his congressmen and takes other similar steps in the attempt to win lawmakers and others over to his way of thinking.

Up to this point, you may think, here is an ideal young citizen. He is doing what too many youths will not do. He is practicing the arts of good citizenship. He is following a course of action which most people, young and old, must follow if we are to have a strong and enduring democracy.

To this extent, therefore, the young man I have in mind is a citizen worthy of the name. But unfortunately he possesses one weakness which counteracts most of his desirable qualities of citizenship. He is impatient and destructive. He is so impressed with the things that are wrong in his school, in his community, and in the nation as a whole, that his impulse is to try to destroy most of the institutions which now exist and to begin building from the ground up.

The reason for this young man's impatience is that he is keenly sensitive and feels deeply about what he considers to be the injustices of the world in which he lives. It angers him to see people living in poverty or to witness other defects in our society. For that, he is to be admired. Too many people become callous to the living conditions of those less fortunate than they. They close their eyes to the squalor and unhappiness of the poorer classes of the population. They are unwilling to face unpleasant facts.

It is in this young man's favor, therefore, that he is keenly aware of the plight of others and is devoting time and energy to the improvement of living standards generally. It is even more to his credit, since he enjoys a comfortable existence and thus is not motivated by his own needs.

Despite the worthiness of his intentions, however, the young man is not a good citizen in the sense of exerting influence for social progress. He does not convince people, but instead angers them. When someone points out practical difficulties in the way of effecting certain of his reform ideas, he quarrels with them and antagonizes them. The idea of compromise, of give-and-take, is repellent to him. He insists on going all the way or none. The more belligerent he becomes, the less influence he wields. People consider him to be unbalanced. They look upon him as a troublemaker. They don't like him or respect him.

The trouble with this young man is that he does not understand how difficult is the road to social progress; how slow a road it is to travel; how it takes years to convince the majority of people of the wisdom of most reform measures, regardless of how sound they may be. He does not realize that if all people were as cocksure of themselves and as determined to impose their will on others as he is, our democracy could not function. In short, he lacks tolerance and patience—two essential virtues of democratic citizenship.

My purpose in calling attention to this personality defect is that it is to be found in many of the most promising young citizens. It is only these youths who are vitally concerned with public problems and who have a real desire to improve the social welfare of the nation. Since they offer the best hope of public leadership, it is all the more important for them to work toward their goal in a constructive manner. This does not mean that they should not put forth their views and programs in a forceful way. It merely means that they should be willing to compromise, to accept partial victory, and to look upon social progress as a long-range struggle, in which we must constantly engage regardless of the slowness of results.

Test Yourself

Ask yourself these questions. You need not make your answers public. They are for you alone. When you have finished, put the paper containing your answers away; keep also the list of questions. In a few weeks get the list out and take the test again. Then compare your answers with the earlier ones. You can tell in that way whether, after having given the matter thought, you are developing higher standards.

1. When you read that one-third of the American people are underfed do you

(a) declare that it is unpatriotic for people to say such things; that they should not talk about the weaknesses or faults in the country but should give attention only to the successes and achievements;

(b) decide that America is not entitled to respect and devotion when so many of its people are miserable and that the well-to-do people or the public leaders are to blame for conditions, or

(c) determine to study thoughtfully the causes of poverty and the remedies and to tackle the very complex task of bettering conditions?

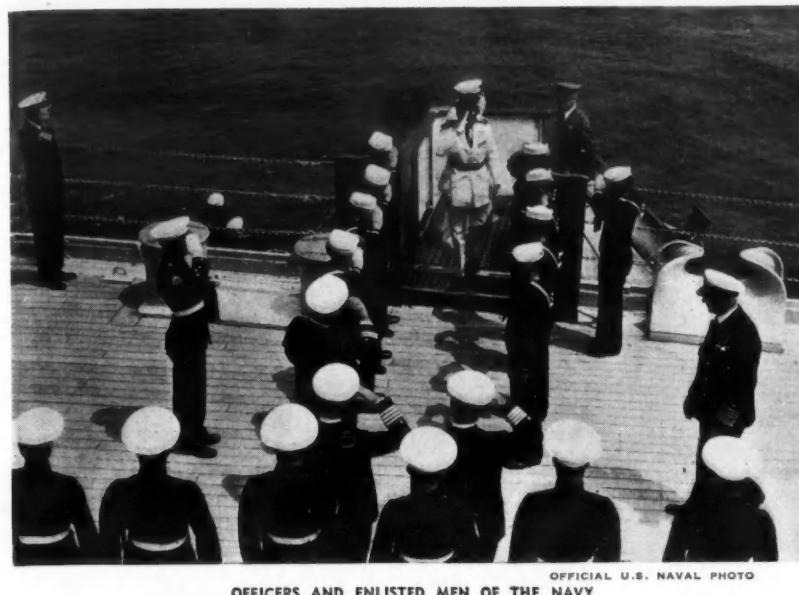
2. When something is wrong in your school or city do you assume at once that it is the fault of someone and do you begin to "knock," or do you get the opinion of a number of people about what can be done to remedy conditions?

3. Have you ever analyzed yourself to determine whether you are a "knocker" or a constructive force in your school or community?

4. Have you, within the last year, made a serious attempt to discover the cause of some failure in America, like the prevalence of crime, or poor housing or widespread poverty, and have you tried to decide what should be done to improve conditions?

5. Have you ever noticed that you were blaming the country or other people for not solving a problem that you, yourself, do not know how to solve?





• Vocational Outlook •

Army and Navy Officers

FOR the first time since the World War, there are more than one million men in the United States Army. Last week the total stood at 1,003,500—68,500 officers and 935,000 men in the ranks. Although not so numerous, the man power of the Navy is increasing at a corresponding rate. Our naval strength may soon be built to 300,000 men.

In critical periods, such as the present, a good many of the officers who are in command in the two services are drawn from the reserves, both Army and Navy, and from the National Guard establishments. But the majority of the officers are graduates of West Point or Annapolis, and in normal times, the preponderance is even more marked. At both service schools, entrance and graduation requirements are extremely high.

In the Army and the Navy, the career of the professional officer should be considered partly in terms of patriotic service, but also as a field for earning a livelihood. Beginning as a second lieutenant in the Army, an officer may advance through the following ranks: first lieutenant, captain, major, lieutenant colonel, colonel, brigadier general, and major general. The base pay for the second lieutenant is \$1,500 a year, with increases along with the promotions in rank. The highest base pay in the Army is \$8,000. In addition to the regular salaries, there are certain allowances for food, lodging, and other expenses.

In times of peace, advancement from the lower positions to the higher is slow. During a war or a general emergency, on the other hand, advancement is quite rapid, but those who have been advanced generally revert to their peacetime rank when the crisis is past.

We have mentioned that nearly all Army officers are trained at West Point, which is extremely difficult to enter. Senators, representatives, and a few high officials in the government make a total of several hundred appointments each year. The fortunate young men, who must be between the ages of 17 and 22, must pass stiff mental and physical examinations before they are accepted, and each of the four years (the schooling period has been shortened until the present emergency is over) is a similar hurdle. Those who graduate receive commissions as second lieutenants.

In the main, similar conditions prevail in the Navy, where most of the officers are trained at Annapolis. Applicants for this school must be between 16 and 20 years old.

Political appointments likewise control the entrance to Annapolis, which also has high mental and physical standards to weed out all but the finest men. Upon graduation, the Annapolis midshipman becomes an ensign in the Navy.

The salaries for naval officers range from \$1,500 to \$7,000 a year. As in the Army, there are certain additional allow-

ances made for various expenses. A man may be stationed at any one of a number of ports, and on his tours of duty he has the opportunity for traveling. Both the Army and the Navy officers can retire, at certain ages, on attractive pensions.

The training at West Point and Annapolis compares with a four-year education in college, although it emphasizes scientific and engineering studies, and, of course, military and naval subjects—history, tactics, and the like. Some cadets and midshipmen are accepted upon graduation from high school, but a good many have taken college work before they attempt to secure appointments.

The Department of War and the Department of the Navy in Washington, D. C., will furnish detailed information on Army and Navy careers, and on regulations governing admission to West Point and Annapolis respectively.

Information Test

Answers to history and geography questions may be found on page 8. If you miss too many of them, a review of history and geography is advisable. Current history questions refer to this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

European History

1. Slavery was abolished in the British Empire as a result of (a) a successful slave rebellion, (b) the American Civil War, (c) the decline in cotton raising in the West Indies, (d) an act of Parliament providing pay for the slaves' owners.

2. Match these famous English rulers with the names of their houses:

Charles I	Hanover
Henry VIII	Plantagenet
Richard Lion-Heart	Stuart
Victoria	Tudor

3. In 1895 Captain Alfred Dreyfus of the French army was sent to Devil's Island as a result of false charges made by (a) army officers, (b) radical agitators, (c) German spies, (d) the President of the Republic.

4. The Cunard liner *Titanic* was sunk by (a) a submarine, (b) a floating mine, (c) an iceberg, (d) a sunken reef.

5. Gregory Rasputin strongly influenced (a) Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany, (b) Empress Alexandra of Russia, (c) Marshal Pilsudski of Poland, (d) Nikolai Lenin.

6. During the period known in history as "the Hundred Days," France was ruled by (a) Napoleon I, (b) Napoleon III, (c) Louis XVIII, (d) Maximilien Robespierre.

Geography

1. Crete, where the British have established a base, is an island belonging to (a) Italy, (b) Turkey, (c) Greece, (d) France.

2. Can you match the following famous structures with the countries in which they are to be found?

The Week at a Glance . . .

Tuesday, March 11

President Roosevelt signed the lend-lease bill, and immediately approved the first lists of materials being sent to Britain under the new law.

Nazi planes waged an "all-out" raid on Portsmouth, England, while British planes were attacking Cologne, Germany, and points along the German-held coastal region.

French Indo-China and Thailand signed peace terms negotiated by Japan, giving Thailand 25,000 square miles of Indo-China's territory.

Wednesday, March 12

President Roosevelt asked Congress to appropriate \$7,000,000,000 for the costs of the lend-lease program.

In the Senate, a special committee was organized to investigate the defense program, while a House committee was appointed to investigate recent commercial air-line crashes.

Greece reported that her troops had held back Italian troops which moved with the largest force so far employed along six fronts.

Thursday, March 13

Defense Directors William Knudsen and Sidney Hillman and Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins gave President Roosevelt proposed plans for a mediation board to handle labor disputes in defense industries.

Office of Production Management reported that 972 planes were turned out by aircraft industry during February.

Royal Air Force carried out one of war's heaviest raids on Berlin, and the first attack on the German capital in 82 days.

House of Representatives received an appropriation bill calling for \$3,446,585,144 to carry forward naval-construction program.

Friday, March 14

House passed the naval bill which it had received yesterday from House Naval Affairs Committee, and sent the measure to the Senate.

Office of Production Management announced that the War and Navy Departments had let \$12,575,869,000 worth of contracts from June 1, 1940, to January 31, 1941.

Federal government asked all workers available for skilled jobs in defense industries to register under a voluntary plan.

Greek defenses held against fresh waves of Italian troops, with Mussolini still in Albania directing operations.

Saturday, March 15

Millions of dollars poured into the United States Treasury on the last day for income taxes covering 1940 to be paid.

President Roosevelt told the nation in a radio address to expect to undergo sacrifices as America becomes the "arsenal of democracy" under the lend-lease program.

Britain was reported to be rushing 300,000 men to Greece, including 100,000 who were already said to have landed.

Yugoslavia, under pressure from Germany to join the Axis line-up, showed signs of stiffening.

Royal Air Force bombers waged heavy attacks on industrial regions in the Ruhr area.

Sunday, March 16

Minister of Labor Ernest Bevin announced plans for compulsory mobilization of men and women workers not already engaged in vital defense work in Great Britain.

In a German memorial day address, Adolf Hitler said the Axis would defeat Britain despite aid from America.

Monday, March 17

President Roosevelt accepted on behalf of the nation the new \$15,000,000 National Gallery of Art.

It was reported that Turkey and Yugoslavia have arranged mutual defense steps to be taken in the event of German entry into Greece.

♦ SMILES ♦



"New at this game, ain't ya?"
KENNEDY IN AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE

Cop: "Hey, lady, pull over to the curb. Do you know you were going 75 miles an hour?"

Motorist: "Honestly, officer? Isn't that perfectly marvelous? And I just learned to drive this week!" —CAPPER'S WEEKLY

Housewife: "You will be careful on my new, polished floor, won't you?"
Plumber: "Don't worry about me, lady. I won't slip. I got hobnails in my boots."

—SELECTED

"I have been on this train seven years," proudly said the conductor of a slowly moving train.

Passenger: "Is that so? Where did you get on?" —WALL STREET JOURNAL

Radio Station WOR recently celebrated its nineteenth birthday anniversary. Among the congratulatory messages was one from a lady on Long Island who evidently had been well trained by many years of listening to commercial announcements.

With her note of congratulations, she enclosed—three soap wrappers.

—WALL STREET JOURNAL

The Week at Home

Grand Coulee Dam

Grand Coulee, greatest of all great dams, is not yet quite complete, but on Saturday, March 22, it began to produce electricity for the defense industries of the northwest. At noon, Saturday, two 10,000-kilowatt generators began to hum, and current flowed through a feeder line to supplement that of Bonneville Dam, 345 miles down the Columbia River. But this current is only a trickle compared with the power which will be produced here next August when the first of the giant 108,000-kilowatt generators is set spinning. And several years from now, when 18 of them are running, this dam will generate one-twelfth as much current as is produced in the United States today.

The Grand Coulee Dam on the upper Columbia is the largest structure ever raised by man. The Great Pyramid of Cheops is small beside it. Four buildings the size of the Capitol at Washington could be completely buried in its con-



THE LOCATION OF GRAND COULEE

crete, and four ships like the *Queen Mary* could tie up along it without reaching from one end to the other. It is not as tall as Boulder Dam, the highest dam in the world, but it is tall enough to top the great Washington Monument.

Behind this wall of concrete and steel, the waters of the Columbia are spreading out into a lake extending all the way to the Canadian border. The reservoir will be used to irrigate 1,200,000 acres of dry but fertile land in the Columbia Basin, thus adding to cultivation an area as large as Delaware.

F.D.R.'s Cruise

When the presidential yacht *Potomac*, accompanied by the destroyer *Benson*, slipped quietly into little Port Everglades in southern Florida about a week ago, all that was known of the President's plans for a vacation was that he had told reporters he hoped soon to do a little traveling.

President Roosevelt's frequent brief escapes to the sunny blue waters of the Caribbean are almost as important a part of his life as eating and sleeping. Without them he would be totally unable to carry his tremendous burdens. Eight years of wear and tear in Washington have not undermined his iron constitution, but he finds that he cannot go on with the grind,

month in and month out, unless he pauses occasionally to relax his nerves and restore his energy.

If he does not stop in time, he begins to suffer from colds and sinus trouble. He becomes run down and is unable to keep abreast of his work. Appointments are cancelled wholesale, and he remains in his bedroom and his study as much as possible. The only cure is a trip.

He can never completely escape the presidency, of course, for he is always in touch with the capital by radio and courier plane. But he can get away from the grueling routine long enough to obtain a measure of relief and a fresh perspective.

Civilians in Masks

American civilians are now learning what it feels like to breathe in a gas mask. This adventure—literally a breath-taking one—has hitherto been the peculiar privilege of the armed forces, but now it has been ordered for Navy Department employees throughout the Third Naval District (New York, Connecticut, and northern New Jersey). Naval workers in other parts of the country will also be donning gas masks soon.

In the Third District 40,000 employees have been divided up into classes, each of which will be given a two-week course in gas defense. Every man and woman is drilled in adjusting the mask quickly and carefully, instructed in routine behavior during a gas attack, and shown how to give first aid to gas victims. Eventually each worker will have his own mask, which he will keep beside him all the time. Chemicals for neutralizing gases will be placed here and there throughout plants, offices, and warehouses.

The Navy has not yet ordered its civilian gas masks, but the Army has ordered some. Five factories are working on War Department "educational orders," small orders intended to prepare manufacturing concerns for emergency production. The masks which the Army and the Navy will issue to their civilian employees afford protection against all known gases, but they are less durable and less expensive than those used by the fighting men.

Air Corps Crashes

The United States must expect to have more Air Corps crashes, says the War Department. An increase in accidents is bound to follow expansion, particularly rapid expansion, we are told. In 1921 Army airplanes flew only 77,000 hours, while last year they flew more than 900,000 hours. More crashes are inevitable.

Not only do we have more planes in the air today, but our planes are faster and more complex than they used to be, and military flying is more difficult, more



WIDE WORLD

AN END TO STRIKES?
Through a federal mediation board machinery would be provided to settle industrial disputes without strikes or lockouts.

hazardous than ever. The situation is made worse by the fact that plane crews are larger now so that there are more men to lose their lives in a single crash. In the past 10 years the average number killed in each fatal accident has increased more than 30 per cent.

The Army points to two factors which lighten this gloomy picture a little. First, the accident rate is decreasing. The percentage of accidents in 1940 was far below that of 1921. Second, the lowest accident rate in the Air Corps is to be found among the students at the Air Corps schools. The official explanation is that a greater degree of control and supervision can be maintained at the schools than is possible anywhere else.

Cost of Living

The cost of living is continuing to rise slowly, according to figures just published by the Department of Labor. Last month food went up another tenth of one per cent, making groceries 1.3 per cent higher than they were a year ago. Meats are 14 per cent higher than they were at this time last year, and pork chops have jumped 26 per cent. Fortunately, some foods have declined in price.

Next to food, the most important item on modest family budgets is rent. Taking all the large cities of the country together, the increase in rents since the beginning of the European war is very small, but in cities where booming defense industries are attracting thousands of new workers, rents of low-priced houses have jumped from eight to 16 per cent. Since the rent situation can be remedied only by the extensive building of new homes, it is likely to continue serious for a long while.

Clothing is 1.5 per cent higher than it was at the outbreak of the war. Woolen garments, such as suits, overcoats, and sweaters, have risen most—from five to 10 per cent in some cities.

TNEC Concludes

The Temporary National Economic Committee has brought its lengthy investigations to a close. For nearly three years it has been trying to find out how business can be kept from becoming so big that it stifles competition and kills free enterprise. Day after day the chairman, Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney of Wyoming, sat with his committee and listened to witnesses. Now it is all over, and the chairman has made a number of important recommendations.

Four measures are suggested by Senator O'Mahoney: national charters to control the great national corporations; rigid enforcement of the antitrust laws; revision of taxes with a view to encouraging small enterprises and new businesses; further

consideration of the problem by a conference in which organizations representing business, labor, the farmers, and the consumers would take part.

The committee tackled a difficult problem at what turned out to be a difficult time. It began by trying to find out how to put idle factories to work, and before it had succeeded all the factories had been put to work by the national emergency and more were urgently needed. But the preparedness boom will not last forever, and the TNEC has attempted to look ahead.

Herbert Hoover

When the World War broke out, Herbert Hoover, a successful mining engineer, was in England on business. Although well known in his own profession, he had done

nothing to attract wide attention. His qualities as an administrator, however, appealed to Walter Hines Page, American ambassador to Britain, who asked him to organize the evacuation of 200,000 United States citizens from Europe. At the rate of 5,000 persons a day, Hoover completed the mass removal in 40 days.

Mr. Page next asked Hoover to undertake an even greater task—heading a relief program for Belgium. Ten million people in the tiny nation were in need of food and clothing, and many were homeless. Hoover became director of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, which the United States established.

After the war was over, Hoover had a world reputation, and the United States government continued to use his services in various capacities. The road which finally led to the White House began to widen in 1921, when he became secretary of commerce in Harding's cabinet. He held the same post under Coolidge, whom he was to succeed as President in 1929.

In the years since the World War, Hoover has been responsible for efforts to feed great populations of people on 26 occasions. When Russia marched on Finland during the present war, the former President organized a relief fund in the United States for the Finnish people. In recent weeks, however, Mr. Hoover has encountered obstacles in launching a plan to feed part or all of the hungry populations in German-held nations. The British, whose sea blockade would have to be relaxed to permit Hoover's plan to operate, remained unconvinced that the method would not help Germany. Some compromise, though, may be worked out.



INT'L NEWS

PILLS FOR THE EMBATTLED
And not bitter pills but life-saving ones are being sorted and prepared by nurses in New York for shipment to Britain and Greece. The aid is sponsored by the Medical and Surgical Supply Committee, an organization of doctors.

The American Observer

A Weekly Review of Social Thought and Action

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The Week Abroad

Balkan Developments

(1) Belgrade Puzzle

A big German transport plane waited in the Belgrade airport last week, its motors now idling, now lying silent. It had been waiting there nearly a week to take the premier and foreign minister of Yugoslavia to Germany where they were to have signed a series of agreements aligning the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes with the Axis.

But something had gone wrong. Just what it was no one outside the Yugoslav cabinet seemed to know. Prince Paul, the Yugoslav regent, had called several meetings of the cabinet. At first, it was widely reported that he had convinced his colleagues that Yugoslavia had no choice but to yield to Hitler's demands. The trip to Germany was planned, and everything, including the big transport plane, was in readiness. Then there had been other cabinet meetings; there had been talk of opposition to any alignment with the Axis. Rumors flew thick and fast. At the beginning of last week only one thing was certain—the plane was still waiting. Yugoslav leaders had not flown to see Hitler, and Belgrade was still capital of an independent country.

Why did the Belgrade government hesitate after having made all these preparations to yield? Several suggestions have been offered. It has been suggested that the democratic forces within the land proved stronger than anyone expected. It has been reported that Yugoslav army chiefs refused to stand aside and see their land overrun by Germans without a fight. There is also reason to believe that Hitler had increased his secret demands to the point where Prince Paul himself decided that to yield would be to encourage a revolution within the country.

(2) British Maneuvers

Other reasons for the Yugoslav government's change of heart might be found beyond the borders of the kingdom itself. Across the mountains, in Albania, Mussolini had just received one of his greatest personal humiliations. After spending five days at the front, directing an offensive of perhaps 120,000 troops, he had given up and gone back to Rome in disgust, his troops having suffered heavy casualties in the attempt. At the same time there were

British transports in Greek harbors disembarking thousands of troops. The number of British troops in Greece at the beginning of last week was estimated to be 120,000, more or less, with perhaps twice as many on the way. The fact that the British would send such large quantities of troops, after their disaster at Dunkirk, last summer, indicated a confidence that the Balkan line could be held against Hitler. Turkey, also, was showing greater signs of determination to resist. Finally, there was the speech of President Roosevelt promising material aid from the United States to any countries who would stand up to the aggressors.

All these factors probably contributed to the reluctance of the Yugoslavs to yield to Germany.

There still remains the question as to why Germany did not strike immediately when this drift became apparent. For one thing, it is possible that Hitler still fears that Russia might close in on his Balkan flank, once it had become extended far enough. For another, the Balkans constitute Germany's principal bread basket, and the source of many ores and fuel oil. To begin a war in that region now might so disrupt commerce that Hitler could no longer obtain these supplies. To stand still, on the other hand, might cost him his present advantage.

Trouble in Syria

While attempting to crush the "Free French" movement headed by General de Gaulle by arresting its supporters in France, North and West Africa, and in other parts of the French colonial empire, the government of France last week found itself confronted by a colonial problem from still another quarter. The latest difficulty has arisen in Syria, that parched, hilly region of deserts, cedars, olive and cypress groves lying along the eastern shores of the Mediterranean between Palestine and Turkey. Lying in the zone where German, Italian, British, Turkish, and even Russian interests overlap, in the path of a German move against Suez, or a British move to aid Turkey, it has become

a hotbed of widespread intrigue and danger.

Syria, with its little satellite states—Latakia, Jebel Druse, and Lebanon—was a province of the old Turkish empire until mandated to France after the Treaty of Sevres, in 1920. Its 3,630,000 people consist chiefly of Arabs who have never taken kindly to alien rule, whether it be Turkish or French. Four times, between 1925 and 1936, they rose in rebellion, and four times they were crushed. In 1936 a treaty was negotiated under which France promised Syria its independence, but it was never ratified in Paris.

From four different points in Europe and the Mediterranean lands came reports of more disturbances in Syria, a few days ago. Uprisings among the Arabs are thought to have been stimulated by a variety of causes—by anti-British agitation by Axis agents, by anti-Vichy agitation by British and de Gaulle agents, by reports that both Berlin and London have promised Syria to Turkey in exchange for Turkish support and, most of all, by an acute shortage of food.

Arica to Bolivia?

At the northern tip of Chile, only a dozen miles from the Peruvian border, Arica, a little port of 13,000 people, bask in perpetual sunshine at the base of a big headland. Rain never falls in Arica. On the west the long swells of the Pacific roll along its beaches. To the east, far beyond the ring of sandy hills which encircle the town, the snowy peaks of the Andes seem to hang motionless in the sky. Several times a week trains rumble into Arica. They come from Peru, or down the slopes of the Andes, 277 miles from La Paz, Bolivia, bringing Bolivian vacationists who wish to swim or golf, and carloads of tin and antimony, borax and sulphur, copper ore and hides to be loaded into the some 700 ships which call at Arica every year.

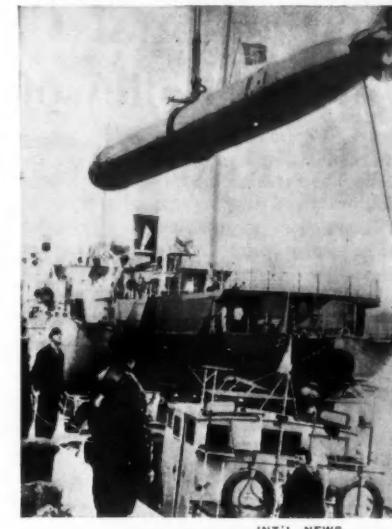
A century ago, Arica belonged to Bolivia. But the Bolivians were forced out in the Pacific War from 1879 to 1883, and Chile and Peru battled furiously for control of it. This gave rise to a long and troublesome dispute among Chile, Bolivia, and Peru—a dispute which was settled by mediation in 1929 when Peru took the Tacna district, north of Arica, Chile kept Arica itself, and Bolivia was granted commercial rights in the disputed port. This agreement never satisfied the Bolivians. Cut off from the sea by neighbors on all sides, they felt they had been cheated, a feeling which often caused them to quarrel with their neighbors.

Last week came news from South America that Chile may now be willing to turn Arica back to Bolivia. Chile, it is said, has found Arica more of a burden than an asset, from a financial point of view. In addition, the Chileans have become somewhat worried at the way in which Bolivia has been drifting toward ever closer cooperation with Argentina, a rival of Chile's. Both Chile and Peru would like to lure Bolivia back into the Pacific bloc of South American states, and perhaps regard Arica as a means for achieving this end.

Crumbling Empire

Five years ago Italy's colonial armies were being urged from Rome to hasten their march toward Addis Ababa so that the conquest of Ethiopia might be completed before the drenching seasonal rains set in. In the Ethiopian capital, Emperor Haile Selassie was preparing to flee, first to Geneva to make a fruitless plea for help before the League of Nations and then, when all hope seemed dashed, to England where for nearly five years he was to lead the life of a retiring exile.

The swarthy, bearded monarch could not foresee, in the spring of 1936, that within five years he would not only be in Ethiopia again but within measurable reach of his throne. Last week, Selassie could almost see the end of the exile's long trek.



INT'L NEWS

LOADING TROUBLE

This picture was taken "somewhere in Occupied France." It shows an "eel," a German caption for huge torpedoes, being loaded aboard a torpedo boat. This particular "eel" has by now most probably been sent on its mission against the hull of a British merchant vessel.

Ethiopian patriots, summoned to revolt against Italy and armed by the British, had made a dash into the very heart of Ethiopia and laid siege to Debra Markos, capital of Gojjam province, only 115 miles away from Addis Ababa. Mussolini's East African empire was crumbling fast.

Now, as in the spring of 1936, it is a race with the rains. In Cairo, British military authorities are jubilantly hopeful that the last Italian resistance can be crushed during the first half of April before the rains hamper military movements. In Italy there is an effort to conceal the reverses in East Africa by minimizing the importance of the campaign.

First Sea Lord

Now that the Battle of the Atlantic has begun in earnest, the eyes of the British people tend to stray anxiously toward

Admiralty House, the old building off Trafalgar Square, in London, which serves both as a residence of the first lord of the Admiralty, and as the general headquarters for all naval and shipping operations of the British Empire. Here, in a room containing a huge globe, a large painting of the Battle of Trafalgar, and countless maps and charts, Albert Victor Alexander, first lord of the British Admiralty, plots the moves which may decide the fate of Europe and the Empire.

Though he bears the title of first sea lord, A. V. Alexander is addressed neither as "Sir" nor "Milord," but as "Mister." Unlike Churchill, whom he succeeded in that post, Alexander has no naval tradition behind him. Born in 1885, he received a technical education, and gained his elementary education in warfare from the army, where he held the rank of captain. Although he has been in Parliament off and on, since 1922, and a Baptist lay preacher part of the time, Alexander has been best known as a champion of cooperative enterprises in Britain.

This is not to say that Alexander is an Admiralty greenhorn. From 1929 to 1931 he was Britain's first sea lord, and as such, he came forward as a champion of cruisers rather than battleships. He saw the menace of Germany's pocket battleships and urged that Britain take steps to meet it by building many more cruisers. Today he is one of the most hard-working men in Britain.

PRONUNCIATIONS: Addis Ababa (ah'dis ah'wah-wah), Aisne (ane'), Arica (ah-ree'-kah), Beauce (bos'-o as in go), Brie (bree'), Croat (kroe'ah't), Darlan (dar'lahn'), Debra Markos (deh'brah mar'koes), de Gaulle (duh' gol'-o as in go), Gojjam (go-jahm'-o as in of), Haile Selassie (hi'leh seh-las'-ee-i as in ice), Helsinki (hel'seen-ke'), Jibuti (jee-boo'-tee), Kronstadt (kron'staht-o as in go), La Paz (lah' pahs'), Latakia (lah-tah-keeh-ah), Lebanon (leh'bah-non).



COURTESY N.Y. TIMES

HITLER'S MARCH INTO 12 COUNTRIES
Today the Nazi leader is in command over most of the European continent.

Fundamental Change Is Made in Foreign Policy of U. S. Government

(Concluded from page 1)

(b) The President is empowered to have additional war supplies manufactured, or to obtain them in any other way, provided Congress appropriates money for his doing so, and he is empowered to turn these supplies over to any government whose defense he considers vital to our defense.

(c) The President is empowered to permit foreign governments to repair or outfit or recondition their equipment in the ports of the United States. This means, in effect, that the English may repair their ships in our ports.

(d) The President is empowered to communicate to any government information pertaining to defense equipment.

(e) When, according to this bill, the President disposes of war supplies to other governments, he may make such terms for payment as seem to him to be satisfactory. He may lend guns or airplanes or other materials, to the English, for example, and allow them to pay us back by sending similar planes and other materials later, or he may lease war supplies to them and allow them to pay rent or interest on the goods which they use.

This act may be revoked by Congress by a resolution of the two houses any time before June 30, 1943, but if Congress does not revoke or repeal it, it comes to an end at that time, provided, of course, that it has not been re-enacted before that date. The President must report to Congress on how the act is working at least every 90 days; that is, he must explain to Congress how he is using the powers which have been given to him.

This is a sweeping act, providing as it does that the United States may turn over immediately more than a billion dollars worth of war supplies which it now has on hand, to the nations fighting Germany, and providing further that Congress and the President may set the factories of the nation to work producing goods and weapons which these nations may need. The United States is to be "the arsenal of democracy," and is to support with all its powers England, Greece, China, and other nations which may enter the war against Germany.

The President's Speech

President Roosevelt, in his address to the nation on March 15, defined America's policies—told why our government had taken such a fateful step. He used language such as usually accompanies a declaration of war. Among his stirring pronouncements were these:

The big new story of this week is this: The world has been told that we, as a united nation, realize the danger which confronts us

—and that to meet that danger our democracy has gone into action.

We know that although Prussian autocracy was bad enough, Nazism is far worse.

Nazi forces are not seeking mere modifications in colonial maps or in minor European boundaries. They openly seek the destruction of all elective systems of government on every continent—including our own; they seek to establish systems of government based on the regimentation of all human beings by a handful of individual rulers who have seized power by force.

These men and their hypnotized followers call this a new order. It is not new. It is not order. For order among nations presupposes something enduring—something of justice under which individuals, over a long period of time, are willing to live. Humanity will never permanently accept a system imposed by conquest and based on slavery.

These modern tyrants find it necessary to their plans to eliminate all democracies—eliminate them one by one. The natives of Europe, and indeed we ourselves, did not appreciate that purpose. We do now. . . .

The decisions of our democracy may be slowly arrived at, but when that decision is made it is proclaimed not with the voice of one man, but with the voice of 130,000,000. It is binding on all of us. And the world is no longer left in doubt.

This decision is the end of any attempts at appeasement in our land; the end of urging us to get along with the dictators; the end of compromise with tyranny and the forces of oppression.

The urgency is now.

We believe firmly that when our production output is in full swing, the democracies of the world will be able to prove that dictatorships cannot win. . . .

No Part-Time Job

A half-hearted effort on our part will lead to failure. This is no part-time job. The concepts of "business as usual" and "normalcy" must be forgotten until the task is finished. This is an all-out effort—nothing short of all-out effort will win. . . .

For, unless we win, there will be no freedom for either management or labor.

Wise labor leaders and wise business managers will realize how necessary it is to their own existence to make common sacrifice for this great common cause.

There is no longer the slightest question or doubt that the American people recognize the extreme seriousness of the present situation. That is why they have demanded and got a policy of unqualified, immediate, all-out aid for Britain, Greece, China, and for all the governments in exile whose homelands are temporarily occupied by the aggressors.

From now on that aid will be increased—and yet again increased—until total victory has been won.

These are warlike statements, and they are the more significant since they are not only made by the President, but since they are in line with action which had been taken by Congress. They represent the position of the United States government. They are supported not only by the President's own party, but by the leader of the opposition. Wendell Willkie said after the



H. B. E.

SIGNING THE LEND-LEASE ACT
"The world has been told that we, as a united nation, realize the danger which confronts us—and that to meet that danger our democracy has gone into action"—President Roosevelt.

President had spoken, that he had given voice to "the aspirations of America."

Does this mean that the United States has entered the war? Certainly we have not made a declaration of war, and legally we are not at war. We are, it is true, taking sides in the war. We are doing everything that we possibly can to bring about the defeat of Germany. We are doing as much as we could do at present if we were at war. The Germans could easily interpret what we have done as an act of war, but it is unlikely that they will do so—at least not now. If they should declare war upon the United States, it would do them no immediate good, and would do them harm, in that it would bring about greater unity in America, and would probably induce the American people to redouble their efforts.

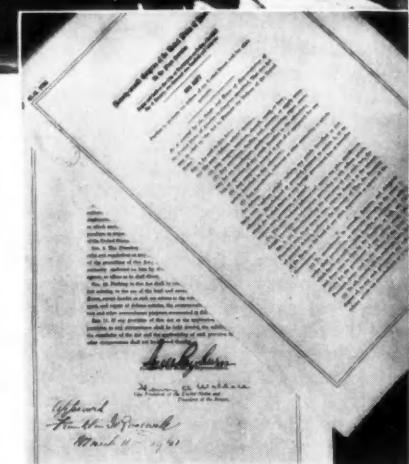
As soon as the lend-lease bill was passed, the President acted immediately to put it into full effect. He asked Congress to appropriate \$7,000,000,000 for the obtaining of materials needed for England and her allies. Over \$2,000,000,000 of this is to be spent for airplanes, airplane engines, and other plane materials. \$1,350,000,000 is to be used for food and other commodities which are needed by Germany's enemies. \$1,343,000,000 is to be used for ordnance and ordnance stores, to be turned over to England. \$629,000,000 is to be used for ships. This is an important item, for the Germans are sinking large numbers of English vessels, and are threatening in this way to blockade England, and to prevent her from importing the goods we wish to give her. \$302,000,000 is to be used for tanks and armored cars, and the rest is to be used for miscellaneous military equipment, repairing of vessels, and for other defense articles and supplies. There was no doubt when the President made this request that it would be granted by Congress.

Speeding Defense

During the fateful second week of March the nation, committed as it was to active participation in the effort to defeat Germany, was speeding defense work all along the line. Here are a few of the activities reported by the government:

(a) It was announced that defense plants; that is, factories producing war materials of one kind or another, were being built and expanded all over the country. Part of them were being built or enlarged at the expense of the United States government, and the British government was furnishing the money for the building and enlarging of other plants. The United States government, up to the first of March, had arranged for the expansion of 302 plants, at a cost of a billion and a half dollars. The British government had financed the enlargement of 61 plants, at a cost of \$171,000,000.

(b) The Maritime Commission reported that rapid progress was being made in the building of new shipyards and in the enlargement of existing yards. These shipyards were built and enlarged in order that vessels might be constructed in large numbers. Plans were made for the building



of 200 ships of 10,000 tons each. These vessels are sorely needed by the British, to take the place of ships which are being sunk by the Germans.

(c) Airplanes are being turned out now at the rate of about 1,000 a month and the rate is increasing rapidly. The Office of Production Management announces that 972 planes were delivered in February by American manufacturers to our Army and Navy, and to the British and other governments.

(d) The government is putting into effect a program of "priorities." There are certain materials, such as aluminum, which are scarce and greatly needed for military purposes. Supplies of this material are being reserved for war uses. Aluminum will be available for the making of kitchen utensils and the hundreds of other kinds of aluminum goods only after war needs are met. For example, the manufacturers of refrigerators are warned to limit the number of ice trays. This is not very important in itself, but it indicates the kind of thing which may be expected during the months to come.

(e) A campaign is under way to get unemployed to work in defense industries, and to get unskilled workers into training for skilled defense work. According to an estimate made by Sidney Hillman, associate director of the OPM, more than seven million men would have to work for a year in order to manufacture all the materials which have thus far been authorized by Congress for our Army and Navy, and for Britain, China, and Greece. It is said that during 1941, "nearly four million additional persons, young, old, middle aged, will be absorbed, from the ranks of the unemployed, either to participate directly in defense endeavors, or in industries whose business volume will grow." A shortage of labor may develop.

These activities are mere samples of the intensive work which is going on all along the line, as the government carries on its great defense effort.

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"By Aiding Britain, We Aid Ourselves," by James F. Byrnes. *Vital Speeches*, February 15, 1941, pp. 267-268. The South Carolinian presses the arguments which were used to gain congressional approval of the lend-lease program.

"We Are Not Prepared for War," by Charles A. Lindbergh. In the same issue of *Vital Speeches*, the flier outlines his reasons for opposing aid to Britain (pp. 266-267).

"Does It Mean War?" *The New Republic*, March 17, 1941, pp. 358-359. A look at the days ahead, written as the lend-lease bill became law.



THE BRIDGE OF SHIPS

"The great task of this day, the deep duty which rests upon us is to move products from the assembly lines of our factories to the battle lines of democracy—NOW"—President Roosevelt.

Should the U. S. Send Food to Europe?

(Concluded from page 1)

eggs, cheese, butter, bacon, and most other foodstuffs are plentiful.

It happens that the most productive agricultural regions of France are those now occupied by German troops. The Germans permit very little traffic to cross the border between the occupied and unoccupied zones. So southern France, the region now ruled by Vichy, and still crowded with refugees from other parts of the country, has been shut off from its main sources of wheat and vegetables.

Shortage of Bread

Day by day the people of unoccupied France have seen their food stocks dwindling. There is a shortage of practically everything, but the shortage of bread is the most serious of all. The French, it will be remembered, are bread eaters by tradition. The average Frenchman in normal times eats 18 ounces each day. Now he is down to nine ounces, and the ration will soon shrink to five or six ounces.

When Frenchmen complain about this to the Germans, they are told that the British blockade is responsible. If many children are so weak that they cannot attend school, it is said, the British are to be blamed. It was Britain, not Germany, which has seized 15 French ships since January 1, and a total of 109 since the armistice. To clinch the argument, the Germans point to the fact that out of the goods they had requisitioned from unoccupied France, they had turned over to Vichy 220,000 tons of wheat, 25,000 tons of iron and steel, 100,000 tons of potatoes, and considerable coal, fuel oil, cellulose, and newsprint. This argument has impressed some Frenchmen. It caused Admiral Darlan to say that "the Germans in this instance have been more generous and humanitarian than the British."

On the other side of the argument the British point to the severity with which the Germans have seized cattle, eggs, butter, and foodstuffs and ores of all kinds in all the occupied countries, carrying them in bulk to Germany, thus directly taking away the food necessary to sustain life. Indirectly they have also caused great suffering. French labor drafted for German farms means French farms will remain untilled. In depriving the conquered peoples of fodder, the Germans have forced the slaughter of thousands of cattle, swine, and poultry. By confiscating railroad rolling stock, trucks, and barges, the Germans have made adequate distribution of the available food stocks impossible. Finally there is the huge German army, and thousands of upper-class German refugees living in and off the occupied lands, producing a heavy strain on the limited food supplies.

Britain's Difficulties

These charges are all leveled at Hitler himself. In the case of France the British charge that the Vichy government is also responsible. They assert that factories in unoccupied France, with the blessing of the Vichy government, are manufacturing airplane parts, invasion barges, tank equipment, aluminum fittings for armaments, and munitions—all for the use of the German army. They charge that shipments of cereals and other foodstuffs, oil, copra, and large quantities of phosphates landing at French Mediterranean ports have been turned over by the French to Germans and Italians.

But there can be no doubt that Darlan's threat to use naval convoys has stirred anxiety in Britain. The political and military reasons why Great Britain wishes to keep France out of the war are obvious to everyone.

Last week the British government forwarded to Washington the outlines of a compromise plan under which they might agree to relax the blockade of France. One condition of this plan, it is believed, agrees with the plan suggested by Marshal Pétain at his press conference—that the distribution of relief in France should be carefully supervised. London suggested "British or neutral observers"; Pétain suggested American observers. Both gov-

ernments apparently are willing to accept American observers. Other details of the British plan are not known as yet. They are believed to be more stringent, however, probably requiring iron-clad guarantees from Pétain that (1) no more cargoes of any sort landing at French ports be handed over in whole or in part to Germans or Italians, (2) that no more German "technical experts" be permitted to enter French North Africa, and (3) that no deals be considered with Hitler which would contemplate the expansion of German privileges in French ports or bases anywhere.

to let the French fleet fall into German hands. At Montoirs, when he blocked the unlovely plane of Laval, and later, when he dismissed Laval from the government, Marshal Pétain set his face against giving military aid to Germany. Yet the British have never made any but the smallest concessions to France, and have made those grudgingly.

The last sentence of this quotation is probably open to some question. The British have made concessions of various sorts. Just a few days ago, for example, two tankers carrying needed gasoline for French North Africa were permitted to pass the blockade. The American relief ship, *Cold Harbor*, has already unloaded its

during the World War, headed a commission which brought American food to millions of Europeans rendered hungry and homeless by the ravages of warfare. As the head of the National Committee on Food for Five Small Democracies, Mr. Hoover has advanced a plan which attempts to overcome the argument that any food sent to Europe would be seized by Germany and would not reach the people for whom it was intended.

The Hoover Plan

Mr. Hoover would begin by making an experiment in Belgium. He would set up soup kitchens, supervised by Americans who would see to it that only Belgians had access to the food. At the beginning, food would be sent for 1,000,000 adults and 2,000,000 children (the population of Belgium is 8,000,000), the adults to receive a pound of bread and an allowance of soup, the children to have special food, including milk.

The Germans would be required to agree that they would not take any additional food stocks out of Belgium in the future, depriving the Belgians of their food stocks and leaving them entirely dependent on food from the United States. Both Germany and Britain would have to pledge that ships bearing this food would be permitted to cross the seas unmolested. Finally, the whole plan would be supervised by some neutral body, such as the Red Cross.

Mr. Hoover believes that this plan might work, and that if so, it might be extended to cover other countries. At any rate, he argues, it can be tried and if it does not succeed, it can just as quickly be dropped. He would limit food shipments so as not to have more than two weeks' supply in Belgium at any one time.

In opposition to the Hoover plan, five main points have been marshalled: (1) The blockade is Britain's chief weapon, and to bring food into Europe would weaken its effect, no matter what the motives. (2) As the conqueror, it is Germany's responsibility to feed the people under her control, and she can probably do this if she knows food will not otherwise be available. (3) The British are now fighting for their very lives, and should not be pressed to do something that they feel might be dangerous to their security. (4) Most of the conquered nations have refugee governments in London, and these governments should be the first to speak if a big relief plan were necessary. (5) The United States should build up a larder of foodstuffs to be held in reserve for peoples now battling for the cause of democracy—something which would encourage greater resistance to the aggressors, both inside and outside the German-ruled areas.

Those who support Hoover's plan, or who support some plan like it, do not agree that Germany can or will provide food for the people under her control just because she is obligated to do so. They believe that if food is not sent overseas, and sent very soon, an era of darkness and misery, famine and pestilence such as Europe has not seen since the Thirty Years' War may follow as a result. For this reason many of the best minds in the United States are now hard at work, trying to devise some practical plan which will enable the United States to feed the hungry of Europe without relaxing its efforts on behalf of Britain.

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HAND ACROSS THE SEA

Up to this point we have discussed the arguments as they concern London, Vichy, and Berlin. The United States also has a vital interest in this matter—or more properly, two vital interests which sometimes clash. One is the traditional humanitarianism which America has always shown in relieving starvation and suffering among victims of great calamities. This is a role of political importance, for it has caused the poor people of the entire world to look to the United States as their white hope for decades. It has won us untold assets in goodwill. The other interest is to see that Britain is not defeated. The question today is whether these two opposite interests can be reconciled.

To begin with, many officials in Washington doubt whether the stern policy the British have adopted toward Marshal Pétain and the Vichy government has been altogether wise. This was recently summarized by the columnists Alsop and Kintner in the *Washington Post*:

The truth is that at the State Department and in circles close to the White House, the British are thought to have been far from astute in their dealings with France since last spring. Once it became clear to the Vichy government that Britain was not certain to be defeated, the men of Vichy were at least partly liberated from German control, and there was room for diplomacy. Darlan himself had pledged his honor never

to cargo of wheat, milk, and medicines in France, after first dropping some off in Spain, and another ship is on the way. It has been reported that President Roosevelt has personally appealed to Prime Minister Churchill to relax the blockade, and there are signs, as we have already noted, that the British are not unwilling to do it.

Other Countries

But France is only one European country in need of food. The story of France is also the story of Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark, and a few countries in the east. And in Belgium and Spain the food shortage is more acute than in France. In Belgium and Spain people are already getting the sicknesses which are brought about by outright starvation. It is true that for political reasons Britain is now permitting large quantities of foodstuffs to enter Spain. So far only a little has arrived, but there will be thousands of tons of wheat, maize, meat, and cotton from Canada and Argentina in the future.

The problem of getting food to people in all the occupied lands of Europe is much broader and more difficult than that of negotiating with a single government, such as Vichy or Madrid. This problem has been tackled with a great deal of serious thought by Herbert Hoover who,

H. & E.
BRIGADIER-GENERAL MARSHALL

No outsiders were admitted to the sessions of the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee last week. Behind massive doors, the members were considering President Roosevelt's request for seven billion dollars to finance the lend-lease program. Before putting the request in the form of a legislative bill to lay before the entire House, the committee members listened intently to high officials.

Among those who testified at the guarded hearings was General George C. Marshall, Army chief of staff. In a different setting, this is how he appeared to Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert of the *New York Times*, who reports on an interview with General Marshall in an article for *The New York Times Magazine* of March 9:

As he talks, framed against his large carved desk, his background the flag of the nation he has sworn to serve, you gradually see his vision, the new Army which is as much his child as one to the blood born. His eyes—light blue eyes—light up as he speaks; his lined, pleasant, wrinkled face works with enthusiasm as he makes a point, as he explains an objective. He has a quality of enthusiasm which is contagious and a facility for expression which gives him a far greater fluency than most Army officers. . . .

(He) is first and foremost an Army man, but he translates technical argot into laymen's English. He understands the value of simplicity of expression. He is not a man to be interviewed; he rarely answers "Yes" or "No"; he takes the bit of conversation in his teeth and is off and away on a tumbling torrent of phrases. A press conference or his testimony before Congress is apt to be largely a monologue; he answers questions but he believes in exposition. . . .

His winning personality and eager interest are two attributes of leadership which flatter and inspire. "The Chief" knows how to get work from his subordinates. His is a restless, inquiring mind in a restless, energetic body. He is not content to see things second-hand through the eyes of a subordinate. Since he has been chief of staff he has flown all over the country inspecting Army posts—a total of more than 28,000 miles—in his Beechcraft transport plane. He handles details and has a standing order to his aides that all old soldiers who once served under him and who want to see him be allowed to do so.

Eskimo Book

Kabloona is an Eskimo word meaning "white man." It is also the name of an unusual and excellently written book by Gontran de Poncins, a sensitive Frenchman of aristocratic lineage, who spent a year in the Canadian far north, living among Eskimos who had had very little contact with the whites (New York: Reynal and Hitchcock, \$3).

On first coming into contact with Eskimos in their daily life, Count de Poncins was shocked. He noticed three men attacking 50 pounds of meat:

The three men attacked that meat with the rumblings and growlings of animals warning their kind away from their private prey. They ground their teeth and their jaws cracked as they ate. . . . And still like beasts they picked up chunks and almost instantly flung them down in order to put their teeth into other and perhaps more succulent bits.

Later on, the *Kabloona* found that first appearances are apt to be deceiving. When he lived among them, shared their food and fires, he found them generous and courteous; he found "a degree of solicitude rare among men," and what "was perhaps the warmest in human companionship that I have ever met."

News and Comment

In late spring, when the sun drove away the snow and the Eskimos went off to stalk great herds of caribou, the landscape of the far north became incredibly beautiful. In the winter, the *Kabloona* found a world not so greatly to his liking, at first, a world that had no proportions or dimensions or color:

Never did the horizon draw its comforting line to divide earth from sky; the two were of the same substance. There was no middle distance, no perspective, no outline, nothing the eye could cling to except the thousands of smoky plumes of snow running along the ground before the wind.

To the Eskimo, however, the winter was a blessing, for then came the snow, "the long-awaited gift of the gods, the magical element that made travelling possible, that furnished him a rampart against the wind when he spent hours on the frozen sea, waiting for the seal to rise."

Strategic Materials

To make itself secure, the United States has embarked on a defense program which goes far beyond the building of strong military and naval establishments. One of the preparedness moves has been to build up stockpiles of strategic raw materials—rubber, tin, nickel, and other products which the nation must import. Among these materials, too, are drugs and medicines.

Last week Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt addressed a gathering of representatives from the drug, chemical,

and allied trades in New York City. His speech included references to the stockpiles of drugs which have so far been accumulated. "Down in the cool, silent vaults beneath the Treasury Building in Washington," he began, "one meets the flat, pungent odor of decayed vegetation." Asking, "Where does it come from?" he went on to explain:

There is no moss down there. These are new concrete and steel vaults, built less than a decade ago to replace the 70-year-old labyrinth of the sixties. Bonds—United States government bonds, at least—do not emit such an aroma. Not silver dollars. Not the crisp fresh green of currency.

Finally one locates the odor. It emerges from a long-shelved vault, 20 feet wide and 60 feet long, with a gridded and well-sealed door. There in heavy packing cases lining one side of the vault is a three-year supply of one of America's strategic raw materials—more than 500,000 pounds of first quality, raw Macedonian opium. It is stored beneath the Treasury because it is too volatile—socially volatile—for any private warehouse to undertake long-time responsibility for guarding such a cache.

Medical munitions these might be called. For they are munitions in just as true a sense as any held by our government in military arsenals.

The United States has also some 8,000,000 ounces of quinine—that is more than a three-year supply under normal circumstances or a two-year supply if an epidemic should strike.

Finns Carry On

Only a little over a year ago Finland, to the applause of the entire Western world,

if without much of its aid, was carrying on a stubborn struggle against the Soviet Union. The names of small Finnish towns, until then unknown even to the most geographically-minded Americans, were on everyone's lips. Today, Finland is all but forgotten. But in its quiet, undemonstrative fashion that little country is still engaged in a struggle that demands something of the spirit that kept the invading Russians at bay for over three months. Only the struggle now is one of rehabili-

U. S. NAVY PHOTO
MOTOR TORPEDO BOAT

tation—repairing the devastated towns, finding new homes for the several hundred thousand persons evacuated from the areas ceded to Russia, and finding jobs for demobilized soldiers.

Writing of this gigantic effort in the current issue of *Travel*, Hudson Strode points out that within seven days after the end of the war, the government was laying plans for the reconstruction now taking place. Wealthy landowners, by their own initiative, launched a project for sharing some of their land with farmers who had been rendered landless. The government in Helsinki encouraged the construction of factories where prefabricated homes might be produced. New hospitals and schools have been built and work has progressed on four entirely new towns, to be models of "efficiency and comeliness."

Summarizing the vast effort of Finland to return to an era of reasonable normalcy, Mr. Strode declares:

In the midst of uncertainty, the Finns go on quietly setting an example to the democratic world in their happy balance of individualism and social-mindedness. Without any guarantee of security, they are rebuilding with as much thoroughness of creative planning as if their inviolability were assured. No one inside Finland or outside can know whether or not the Finns can remain at peace or if on her soil the interests of Germany and Russia may yet clash. But somehow the Finns hold to a simple faith in their destiny.

Mosquito Fleet

Since the lend-lease bill has become law, there has been considerable discussion as to whether the United States will transfer to Britain any of its mosquito boats—a relatively new type of small fast craft which is playing an important role on both sides of the European war. In the March 22 issue of *Colliers*, Frank D. Morris writes of this new type, which is known in the service as a PT (patrol-torpedo) boat.

Torpedo boats of various kinds have been used ever since the American Revolution, but the forerunner of the modern mosquito boat was not developed until halfway through the World War. It proved to be very effective. A handful of these launches managed to sink or disable a good part of the Soviet Baltic fleet at Kronstadt, during a British attack just after the war.

The term "mosquito" is somewhat misleading, for each of these craft weighs 35 tons, costs \$223,000 to build, and is driven by engines as powerful as those of a Flying Fortress bomber:

Seventy feet long, with a beam of 22 feet, she has the general appearance of a surfboard—and that's the way she rides the waves. The broad beam and a hull designed for planing are responsible. Instead of trying to plow through the waves, the PT boat skims over them just as a Kanaka's plank rides the surf at Waikiki. Hitting it up, even in calm

water, a third of the forward keel is exposed while the stern buries itself deep.

Life on board a mosquito boat is not always pleasant. It bounces and skids so wildly in a rough sea that the crew of eight have to wear padded suits and nothing can be cooked in the tiny galley. But the PT boat is not made for comfort. Its four machine guns, in glass-topped turrets, are to fight off aircraft. Its four torpedo tubes are to be fired when the boat darts in under cover of darkness or mist and attempts to destroy a larger ship.

Germany is believed to have several hundred of these craft today, a fact which causes some anxiety among the British, since they would come in handy in case of an invasion attempt. For this reason, the British would like to add more to their own skimpy fleet of mosquito boats.

Biggest Box

The largest box in the world, according to the March 15 issue of *Science News Letter* is a huge affair of composition board and tar paper which contains an entire factory in the process of construction. It is to be found in Detroit where the Ford Motor Company is building a \$21,000,000 plant to produce aircraft engines:

The boxlike shell was constructed around the building about 10 feet from the finished wall line. It was erected as soon as the steel framework was in position. Temperatures inside are supplied by the heat of great charcoal braziers, permitting concrete to be poured in the dead of winter. The factory will be 1,000 feet long and 30 feet wide.

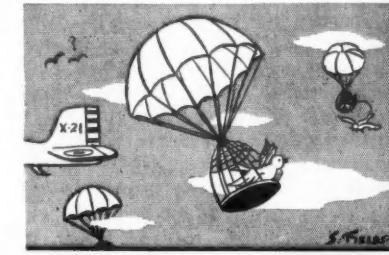
This type of construction, called the "box shelter" type, was developed in Russia. Its advantage is that it permits construction to progress by day or by night, and in the severest of winters.

In Brief

Enough lumber to build 150 five-room houses could be cut from a single one of the giant Sequoia trees which grow in California. The root system of one of the towering trees spreads over three acres, and its bark is two feet thick.

* * *

To get around the dangers of releasing carrier pigeons from a plane in flight, the Army is experimenting with parachutically equipped cages. After the cage has fallen a certain distance and is slowly drifting with the parachute, the cage door opens



automatically, permitting the pigeon to fly out and proceed to its loft.

* * *

Tin cans are turned back to the grocers in Italy just as milk bottles are saved for the milkman in this country. When an Italian housewife buys a can of food, she must turn in an empty can at the store.

About 25,000 tons of tin are estimated to be in the 2,000,000 tons or more of tin cans which are thrown away in the United States every year. Due to technical difficulties, however, it is considered impractical to refine the cans for the tin which they contain.

Information Test Answers

European History

- (d) An act of Parliament providing pay for the slaves' owners.
- Charles I, Stuart; Henry VIII, Tudor; Richard Lion-Heart, Plantagenet; Victoria, Hanover.
- (a) Army officers.
- (c) An iceberg.
- (b) Empress Alexandra of Russia.
- (a) Napoleon I.

Geography

- (c) Greece.
- The great sphinx of Gizeh, Egypt; the 2,500-mile-long fortified wall, China; the Stonehenge circle of great stones, England; the leaning tower of Pisa, Italy; the marble Taj Mahal, India.
- (d) Canada.
- (a) Persian Gulf.
- (d) Pacific Ocean.
- (b) A vast plain.



NAANTALI, FINLAND